

REMARKS

Requirement for Election of Species

The Office Action alleged that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Species 1: described in specification starting on page 5, line 25 and also depicted by figure 4;

Species 2: described in the specification starting on page 8, line 5, and also depicted by figure 5A;

Species 3: described in the specification starting on page 8, line 16, and also depicted by figure 5B; and

Species 4: described in the specification starting on page 8, line 29, and also depicted by figure 6.

Applicant hereby elects species 3, with traverse. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that the various embodiments illustrated in figs. 4, 5A, 5B, and 6 are logical variants of one another, and are not sufficiently distinct to warrant separate species treatment. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 15 each read directly on this species.

All claims 1-15 remain pending in this application and all are believed to define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request submit that the foregoing is fully responsive to the election request and that all presently-pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has

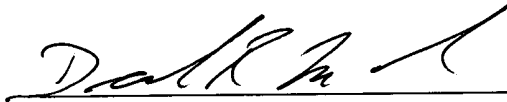
any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully Submitted,

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